





## FARMACOLOGICALS.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & CO., LD.,  
VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

## SUMMER DRINKS.

FRUIT SYRUPS,  
In Bottles at 75 Cents.

## AERATED WATERS.

D. C. & Co.'s  
LIQUEUR AND OTHER WHISKIES.

## CLARETS.

MEDOC.

Per Case, Plin. \$5.50  
Per Case, Quarts \$5.00

ST. GERMAIN.

Per Case, Plin. \$7.50  
Per Case, Quarts \$7.00

ST. ESTEPHE.

Per Case, Quarts \$7.50

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &  
COMPANY, LIMITED,  
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,  
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 14th July, 1894.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

## WATSON'S

IMPROVED CARBO-CAMPHYLENE

Is Distinguished by a White Label in addition  
to the Red One which States thatTHE IMPROVED CARBO-CAMPHYLENE  
is miscible in Water in all proportions.

## ITS MISCELLANEOUSITY IN WATER

Combined with its Agreeable and Refreshing  
odour will Command it to the Public for General  
Use, as it is an Elegant, Agreeable, and Perfect  
Disinfectant for Sick-rooms, Bed-rooms, Bath-  
rooms and all necessary vessels thereto. For all  
purposes it should be diluted freely with Water.

## DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

As a Saffron in visiting—

A little sprinkled on the handkerchief or  
cotton wool and kept in front of the nose and  
mouth in infected rooms or in passing through  
infected districts is strongly recommended.For washing the face and hands—A tea-  
spoonful to a gallon of water.

For the Bath—A table-spoonful or less.

For Sick-rooms and Bed-rooms—A tea-  
spoonful or more distributed in saucers round  
the room or evaporated by the aid of a lamp.For Sprinkling or Spray—A wine-glassful to  
a pint of water.

## AS A MOUTH WASH

a few drops in a tumbler of water.

## FOR WASHING DOGS.

a table-spoonful to a bucket of water.

## THE IMPROVED CARBO-CAMPHYLENE

Converts the waste of bath water into a Valuable  
Disinfectant, which in passing through the down-  
spouts and stretch-traps destroys mosquito germs  
and removes bad smells. Its use in the bath  
has a most beneficial effect on the skin and  
greatly reduces the risk of infection.A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.,  
Hongkong, 14th July, 1894.

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It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions,  
Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong  
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not to individual members of the staff.Communications intended for publication must be accompanied  
by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for  
publication but as evidence of good faith.While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always  
be open for the fair discussion of all questions  
affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that  
the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for  
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REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS  
MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1894.

## A GRAVE OVERSIGHT.

Over a month ago the distinguished  
scientists who came to Hongkong from  
Japan to study the plague announced the  
discovery of its bacillus or germ, and  
what was of almost equal importance,  
declared that this bacillus lived and thrived  
in a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid.No more weighty declaration could have  
been made, despite its incompleteness and  
inaccuracy in the use of the term carbolic  
acid instead of phenol or cresol, or both,  
an inaccuracy, by the way, of which nearly  
all our medical authorities are invariably  
guilty. It should have been put to the  
test immediately. Throughout the colony  
in every direction vast quantities of the  
various forms of so-called carbolic acid  
were being consumed in the desire and  
endeavour to disinfect the houses and to kill  
all plague germs. If the statement made  
by the Japanese doctors were true, the  
whole of these endeavours were simply  
worthless, and wantonly extravagant. If the  
plague bacillus waxed fat and strong on a  
five per cent. solution of carbolic acid, of  
what earthly use was it to sprinkle rooms  
with a weaker solution at a cost of about  
a dollar a room? If the statement were  
inaccurate or misleading, it showed that  
our Japanese friends had been careless in  
their experiments and that their work was  
untrustworthy. In either case the con-  
clusion arrived at should have been tested  
with the greatest care by our bacterio-  
logists, our doctors, and our analysts.Nothing of the sort has apparently been  
done, and we are, therefore, as much at sea  
as we were in the beginning. Will not  
some capable and energetic member of the  
Faculty be good enough to wake up and  
do something that we can rely on?  
In the meantime, and until something  
has been done, it would perhaps be just as  
well to stop using carbolic acid, and to  
employ instead chloride of lime, diluted  
solutions of corrosive sublimate, and such  
other germicides as modern science  
recommends. There is no use throwing  
away time, money, and labour, merely to  
support and fatten plague germs.

## TELEGRAMS.

## CONSTANTINOPLE.

The damage sustained in consequence of  
the recent earthquakes at Constantinople is  
estimated at six million pounds (Turkish).  
The loss of life has been appalling, over two  
hundred deaths having occurred in Constanti-  
nople alone.The Khedive of Egypt, at present on a visit to  
the Sultan of Turkey, is staying on board his  
yacht.

## ANOTHER "JUGGINS."

The Duke of York's new son was named  
Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick  
David.  
[The young 'un must develop into a scientist  
with such a nomenclature.—Ed.]

## TYPHOONS ON THE MOVE.

Mr. E. Ortiz, Spanish consul at this port,  
courteously informs us that he has received the  
following telegram from Manila:—July 19th, 1894.  
It seems that there exist two depressions, one  
to the N.W. of Manila, in the China Sea, and  
the other to the N.E., in the Pacific Ocean.

## TYPHOON WARNING.

In his weather report to-day the Acting  
Director of the Observatory states:—"On the 19th at 11.15 a.m., the depression  
in China Sea appears to be trough-like in  
character at present, with moderate winds from  
S.W. in the Southern part of China Sea and from  
N.E. in the Northern part. On South coast,  
barometer falling slowly. Weather fair."

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Twenty thousand tons per month are said to be  
the present output of coals from the Miki mines."All my future works will be very chaste," says  
Zola. It is time. Nearly all the social-purity  
salts are bald-headed.The O. & C.S.S. Co.'s steamer *Oceanic*, with  
mail, &c., left San Francisco for this port, via  
Yokohama, on the 17th inst.The Court of Appeal at Cairo has recently  
confirmed the decision authorizing the Canal  
Company to permit the passage of petroleum  
tank-steamer.TIM has been changed for the better! It is now  
the doctor who receives a patent of nobility  
when an heir is born to royalty. In the old days  
of King Charles of blessed memory it was the  
lady who was raised to the peerage.A CORONER's inquiry into the circumstances of  
the death of Private Sarrafas Kahn, of the  
Hongkong Regiment, who committed suicide by  
shooting himself on Sunday last, as reported in  
these columns on Tuesday, at K. Wilson, will be  
opened at the Magistrate's at 10.30 to-morrow  
morning.The *Chicago Record* states that the family of  
Yung Kwei, who married Miss Barnham of  
Springfield, Mass., the other day, ranks next  
to the Chinese Emperor. Yung Kwei is about  
thirty years of age and has spent twenty years  
in the United States. He was fitted for Yale at  
the Springfield High School; is a member of the  
Congregational church, and thoroughly Ameri-  
canized. He has discarded the queue and wears  
American clothing.Fisher, P. W. D.—What do you think Joakims!  
A blooming bank clerk had the cheek to write  
to me officially.Joakims, P. O.—Great Caesar! Did you treat  
him with contempt?  
Fisher—Yes! I wrote him a letter.  
Joakims—That fooled him!Fisher—Well, um—er, no! not exactly; the  
Joakims published my letter in the *Telegraph*  
and the whole colony has been chaffing and  
laughing at me ever since.We learn that, subject to audit, the Directors of  
the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation  
propose at the forthcoming meeting to  
declare a dividend for the half-year of £1 per  
share, plus £300,000 to credit of Reserve Fund,  
and carry forward to next half-year £126,600.40.  
This must be regarded as an eminently  
satisfactory result, considering the frightful  
condition of trade in the Far East since the  
beginning of the year.The *Kobe Chronicle* learns that the Osaka  
Insurance Company has refused to pay to the  
owners the sum of 40,000 yen for which the  
steamer *Koya-maru* was insured, alleging that  
the third officer who was keeping watch at the  
time of the accident did not have a certificate  
recognised by the Department of Communica-  
tions, and that as the *Koya-maru* had employed  
an incompetent officer they could not, according  
to the terms of the policy, recover the insurance  
money. The owners of the steamer have taken  
legal proceedings to recover the insurance  
money.The following Intercollegiate debate is published  
in the *Peking Gazette*:—Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy  
of Hukang, reports that an explosion occurred  
at the Wuchang Powder Works, by which  
many of the workmen were killed, and requests  
that the officer in charge of the Works be  
degraded. Let the expectant sub-department  
magistrate, En Yü, be forthwith degraded, and  
let the Board concerned report upon the  
penalties due to the highest authorities.  
Wuchang for the accident, in accordance with  
the regulations recently approved by us  
governing accidents of this sort.Of the army and the military reserves of men  
trained to the use of arms in Japan, says our  
Yokohama contemporary the *Harald*, it is  
calculated that there are some 160,000. The  
Government is also receiving numerous offers  
from persons offering to organize volunteer corps.  
These offers are of course declined, for there is  
nothing, at all events at present, calling for more  
troops. Emigration schemes must be taken  
in abeyance just now, for should war break out,  
any successful adult males which exists in  
Japan, would be taken off by the incidents of  
war, such as being killed by the enemy, or the  
inevitable decimation by disease, which is  
always experienced under exposure and hard-  
ships in the field.From a notice in another column it will be seen  
that Mr. J. W. Osborne, proprietor of the Bay  
View Hotel, has provided for the community of  
Hongkong by erecting opposite his popular  
resort at East Point a range of commodious and  
well-appointed pavilions for the accommodation  
of bathers, what has for years been distinctly a  
long felt want. At this part of the harbour the  
water is perfectly clean, the beach is sandy and  
sloping, and as Mr. Osborne has spared no  
pains or expense in providing every convenience  
for bathers, his enterprise ought to be heartily  
supported. The opening of the new establish-  
ment will take place on Saturday  
afternoon, when a steam-launch will convey  
visitors to and from Bay View, leaving Pender's  
Wharf every half-hour from 5 o'clock.An extract from the *Peking Gazette* of March  
3rd:—Lin Wei-yuan, Assistant High Commis-  
sioner of Agriculture for the island of Formosa,  
and ex-officio Director of the Imperial Stud,  
declares that he is so over-powered by the  
mercantile grace of the Germans that he is com-  
pelled to yield to their lastingly protracted  
But now the command promulgated to the high  
dignitaries of the empire for the following  
purposes, opens the way for memorialists to  
contribute another note towards the Birthday  
Fund, which he serves with avidity. On a  
former occasion he had already contributed to  
this end in conjunction with the Governor and  
other officers down to the 4th grade; but owing  
to the anxiety to show his overwhelming  
gratitude to the Throne he now seeks to be  
allowed to contribute Tiao, 10,000 more in aid  
of the same object.—Receipt: Allowed. Let the  
proper yards take note.In an outspoken article on the policy of Japan in  
Korea, the *Nichi Nichi* declares that no plunder  
nor monopoly of land is looked for, but the  
guaranteeing of Korea's independence and her  
advancement in the ways of civilization. Japan  
is ready to form any alliance with the objects  
in view, or to declare war in defence of the  
necessity against any foe. The best thing that  
would be the latter's consent to Japan's proceed-  
ing with the work alone. But in any case Japan  
cannot leave Korea to Chinese direction alone,  
because China looks down upon that country  
simply as a dependency. The writer sees no  
other alternative; and if one or other is not  
satisfied, he says, must come and China  
will and her influence destroyed for ever.  
Derivation of the Treaty is not to be thought  
of at present by the Japanese Government, but  
if such a step were taken by China it would be  
welcome to Japan.At the Police Court this morning Mr. Hastings  
sentenced M. Vos, clerk to Mr. G. R. Stevens,  
to three weeks' hard labour and bound him over  
to a surety of \$25 to be of good behaviour for  
six months, for stopping J. O'Brien, a clerk in  
the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and  
Godown Co. across the head of the  
walking street, rendering him lunatic, when  
that gentleman was escorting two ladies  
from the Public Gardens last night. The  
defence was a rather peculiar one, namely, that  
as O'Brien had rendered himself offensive to  
defendant and everyone living in his house, Mr.  
Vos being justified in clubbing him 10 p.m.  
being his bedtime, and the magistrate, after  
hearing the evidence, sentenced M. Vos to three  
months' imprisonment, and ordered the grand-  
fatherly services to the dynasty, made a deputy  
assistant Secretary in the Peking Board, while  
the former's military record is ordered to be  
transcribed into current history by the State  
Historiographer's office at Peking. China has  
thus lost another of her old chiefs whose bodies  
are covered with the scars and wounds of a  
legendary fierce hand-to-hand fight against  
Tartar and Mohammedan invasions years ago.The Tientsin correspondent of the *China  
Gazette* writes under date the 7th inst.:—  
I wrote you the other day about the current  
tenants. I should have added that it is offered  
now at fabulously low prices here, but it may  
be asked, is the commodity so offered, really  
good cement, or is it some trashy stuff manu-  
factured cheaply for the Imperial Chinese Railway?  
As far as I know, the best English marks have  
no show. They are simply too cheap. Perhaps  
our Chinese friends will be more successful.  
Mr. James Hart, the Inspector General's brother,  
is here at present and spends a good deal of his  
time, driving about with Mr. Dering. As to  
Korea, the opinion prevailing just now in well-  
informed circles is that there will be no war, as  
China is not prepared.—The Cable agents have  
just got *Hiroshima* for Shanghai, without hav-  
ing been able to accomplish the object for which  
they came to Tientsin, namely to get Chinese  
telegraphic rates raised. The subject is too  
much to engage the attention of the Viceroy  
completely at the present moment. In fact of the  
Korean difficulty. It has been raised here lately.  
The rainy season sets in here in Korea, and it  
would be a blessing if some rain poured down  
here just now, to wash the streets of the city  
and wash them tidy.The leader of the Korean insurgents is said to  
be able to speak English and Japanese fluently.The Governor in speaking of the last official  
report on Lai-chi-kok say, Cant-II. The doctors  
say it can, and does.The *Madras Times*, writing on the plague at  
Hongkong, says:—"One thing India has reason  
to be thankful for: Singapore maintains a strict  
quarantine line."The Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s steamship  
*Empress of China* left Vancouver on Tuesday  
morning last for this port, via Yokohama, Kobe,  
Nagasaki and Shanghai.Reporter—I took notes of the smoking concert  
the other night. By the way, what is a  
*placato*?Editor of the *Daily Fresh*—*Placato* is—  
well, yes, it is one of those improper foreign  
words we never allow in our columns.We have to acknowledge receipt from the  
Imperial Maritime Customs of that most invalu-  
able publication, the "Returns of Trade Repor-  
ts for the year 1901" containing the reports and  
statistics for the whole of the Treaty ports of  
China, also the reports and statistics for Korea.We are indebted to Messrs. Kelly and Walsh,  
Id., for a copy of the *Hanlin Papers*, second  
series, being essays on the history, philosophy  
and religion of the Chinese by Professor Martin,  
of the Imperial Tung Wen College, Peking. The  
book is printed at the "Tientsin Press" and it  
will get up in every respect. It is a work which  
should be in the hands of all students of Chinese  
life and character.The White Star steamer *Rund*, one of that  
Company's cargo steamers, which arrived at  
New York, on June 4th from Liverpool, was fitted  
with a new magnetic compass arrangement.  
The compass is hauled up by a pulley on the  
lumper stay connecting the masts, and the card  
has an automatic catch which fastens the card,  
and it is lowered and compared with the ship's  
compass. All local influences are thus over-  
come.The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial  
Hospital begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the  
following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—  
Pawson's Gold ..... \$ 50.00  
Pawson's Gold ..... 40.00  
Collected by Mrs. Chan Ting, com-  
prised, steamship *Yuenan* ..... 35.00  
Capt. Clarke, steamship *Rund* ..... 16.00  
Capt. Duncan, steamship *Cromarty* ..... 6.00  
"A Fine" ..... 6.00An exaggerated expression the other day got Signor  
Falconi Cavallotti, the well-known Radical leader  
in Italy, into a rather unpleasant scrape. In a  
recent speech in the Chamber of Deputies, on  
the subject of a severe sentence inflicted by the  
Austrian Court of Naples, he declared that the  
judge knew no more of law than a hall-dresser's  
assistant. Thereupon there was great excitement  
in the hall-dressing profession. Indignation  
meetings have been held all over the country,  
and resolutions more or less strongly worded  
have been forwarded to the offending Deputy.According to the *N. C. Daily News* of the  
12th inst., Admiral K. P. Chang, in answer  
to repeated telegrams from Sir H. Allen,  
Governor of Formosa, has sent the cruiser  
*Nanchang* and a consort to Tai-chi-fu with a  
quantity of arms and ammunition for the troops  
in Formosa. The two Chinese cruisers also  
carried a body of trained gunners to assist in  
managing the Kelung and Hsuwei forts. The  
commander of the *Nanchang* is Captain Yuan  
Chieh-shan, a native of Nanking. There is every  
possibility of the two cruisers returning to  
Shanghai after delivering their cargoes of arms  
and men at Formosa and it is reported that they  
will be joined by several of the Foochow squadron  
and three of the Canton fleet en route.According to the *Hochi Shimbun*, the earth-  
quake of the 20th ultimo did considerable damage  
to several departments in Tokyo, the total loss  
reaching over one million yen. The damage  
done to the Imperial Household Department was  
200,000 yen, and each of the buildings of the  
Diet suffered to the extent of 10,000 yen. There  
are no separate buildings for the Cabinet and  
Privy Council, and the premises of the Imperial  
Household Department were leased without  
charge, but now these have become unfit for  
use and other rooms have been leased. The  
buildings for the Cabinet and Privy Council to be  
newly constructed will require 150,000 yen.  
The buildings of the Department of Home Affairs  
and Finance, are also nearly unfit for use, and  
if similar wooden ones be newly constructed  
200,000 yen will be required. The Naval Depart-  
ment and Department of Justice, and Law Court  
buildings, did not sustain much injury.An Imperial decree of the 10th instant, in answer  
to the memorial of T'an Ching-shin, Viceroy of  
the Min-shan provinces, enlarging the character  
and rank of the late General of the Min-shan  
provinces, permits special memo to be written  
to be built in his honour in every province  
wherein he had served while fighting against the  
Taiping and the Mohammedan rebels in  
Chi-see, Turkistan and Kansu. The Imperial  
grandson of this officer—who was Commander-  
in-Chief of Chekiang province at the time of his  
death about three weeks ago—says the M.C.  
Daily News, in recognition of the grandeur of  
his services to the dynasty, made a deputy  
assistant Secretary in the Peking Board, while  
the former's military record is ordered to be  
transcribed into current history by the State  
Historiographer's office at Peking. China has  
thus lost another of her old chiefs whose bodies  
are covered with the scars and wounds of a  
legendary fierce hand-to-hand fight against  
Tartar and Mohammedan invasions years ago.

## SUPREME COURT.

## IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before Mr. E. Z. Ashford, Acting Chief  
Justice.)

July 19th.

## LARCENY ON BOARD THE "HAIKANG."

Mat, a coloured seaman, was charged with  
stealing \$1.50 from the chief officer's room on  
board the steamship *Haikang* on the high seas,  
between Foochow and Amoy, on the 13th June;  
the money being the property of the Douglas  
Steamship Co. at the time. Mr. A. J. Leach  
(Acting Attorney General) instructed by Mr. A. R.  
Jenkins (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted, and the  
defence was below that of Macdonald, Preston and  
Deblin, who pleaded "not guilty," and was  
dismissed.The following jury were empanelled: Charles  
Herbert Whistley Kew, Thomas Charles Kew,chings, Herbert William Bird, John Galbreath,  
Ellis Hyem Joseph, Edward Fairbairn Mackay,  
Leonardo Francisco Augusto Colloco.Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., in addressing the jury,  
stated that the prisoner is charged on an indictment  
of stealing the sum of \$1.50 from the chief  
officer's room, the money being collected from the  
passengers, and being the property of the  
Douglas Steamship Co. The theft occurred  
during the steamer's voyage from Foochow to  
Amoy on the 13th instant.Mr. Douglas, chief officer, gave evidence to  
the effect that prisoner was an able seaman on  
board, and on the morning of 13th of June he (the  
officer) was on watch. On the same evening  
between eight and nine o'clock he happened to go  
to his desk, when he noticed that the lock had  
been forced open, and the bag, containing \$1.50 in  
all, was gone. However, at the time he did not  
accuse anybody, but when the steamer arrived  
here on the 15th instant, he offered \$50 reward  
for such information as would lead to the dis-  
covery of the thief. On the same evening when  
the crew went ashore and the prisoner's move-  
ments were closely watched, it was found  
that prisoner was spending money very freely,  
in fact, far beyond his means. The prisoner's  
pay was \$10 a month.The evidence of Inspector Quincey and five  
other witnesses was then led.The jury found prisoner "not guilty," and he  
was therefore discharged.The *Selkirk* scandal case will come on for  
hearing on Monday next.

## THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

This afternoon some rubbish from the plague-  
stricken houses in Wellington Street, near the  
*China Mail* office, were consumed by fire. The  
*China Mail* and "Brownie" were not included in  
the debris—more's the pity!

The latest official returns are as follow:—

	New Deaths	Disch.	Rem. under
	cured.	treatment.	
Hospital ship <i>Hygieia</i> .....	0	0	10
Kennedy-town.....	0	0	27
Slaughter House.....	4	2	50
A.M. Branch Hospital.....	0	0	14
Private houses.....	0	3	0
Total.....	4	5	101

Deaths reported from the outbreak (9th May)  
up to July 18th, noon, 2,382; grand total, 2,387.  
From noon up to 5 p.m. to-day:—At Tung  
Wah branch (including now only the Slaughter  
House) new cases, 3, one sent to Lai-chi-kok;  
death since, 1; sent to Canton in junk, 1;  
total remaining under treatment at the Tung  
Wah branch, 50.

## LAI-CHI-KOK RETURNS.

The following are the returns of admissions,  
death, &c., at the Lai-chi-kok pest-house for the  
twenty-four hours ending 5 o'clock yesterday  
afternoon:—Admissions, 7; deaths, 2; dis-  
charged, 4; remaining under treatment, 65.

## THE SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held  
this afternoon. Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart  
(Acting Colonial Secretary) presided, and there  
were also present Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. F. H.  
May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr.  
H. P. Tucker (Acting Director of Public Works),  
Dr. C. B. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. James  
Dr. Hartigan, R. K. Leigh, J. J. Francis, Q.C.,  
and Mr. E. A. Ram (Secretary).A letter from the Colonial Secretary was read  
in which it was stated that the Government have  
made arrangements for the removal of burial  
sites from the lower portion of Bowrington Canal,  
which has for months past been a source of  
grave danger to the health of the residents in  
that part of the colony.

## USELESS MORTALITY RETURNS.

The Secretary read the following letter from  
Dr. Cantile:—

Hongkong, 17th July, 1894.

To the Secretary of the Sanitary Board,  
SIR,—The members of the Board have, no  
doubt, observed that in my former letter to  
the Board the sentence frequently recurs,  
"according to the disease and mortality statistics  
we have no proof of either overcrowding  
or bad drainage previous to the appearance of  
the plague."I am still prepared to adhere to that statement,  
and would even emphasize the words according  
to the disease and mortality statistics, for in  
them lies the gist of the whole matter.The first thing the officers of the Local  
Government Board in Britain demand when  
ordered to enquire into the health of any  
district or town, is that the mortality statistics  
submitted to them be full and accurate.  
If these statistics show no abnormal death,  
or what is equally important, disease-rate, they  
naturally assume the place to be in fair average  
condition as to sanitation. But if, on the other  
hand, the average is exceeded, a searching  
enquiry is at once instituted, and if removable  
insanitary conditions are found to prevail,  
the local authorities are called upon to redress  
the wrong forthwith. If they ignore the duty,  
the Board performs the work itself, and charges the  
recalcitrant local body with the cost.There is no other known method of obtaining  
a true knowledge of the health conditions of a  
place except the mortality and disease statistics.  
Hence, it is held to be the broader duty of all  
medical men in general, and the health officers  
in particular, to see that the duty carried out with  
the most stringent accuracy. A false, even an  
inadequate return, is looked upon as something  
nearly criminal.Were the Local Government Board called upon  
to enquire into the sanitary condition of this  
colony, they would ask, not for a bottle of ceres  
gas, nor a plan of the drains, nor yet a model of  
a cock-lot, nor a specimen of filth; but what  
they would demand would be an accurate return  
of the disease and mortality statistics.Now, this is exactly what we could not supply.  
The fact that Bubonic Plague burst upon us  
without warning is the best proof of this state-  
ment. All defence of our sanitation, as against  
the charge of overcrowding, surface crowding,  
and defective drainage, is ad upon the death  
disease returns, as we have them, is fallacious.Our mortality statistics show that the death-  
rate was below that of Manchester, Preston and  
Dublin, and compared favourably with that of  
the thirty largest towns in the United Kingdom.But the returns from these towns are correct,  
and we know the returns from Hongkong are  
not, and cannot be correct under existing con-  
ditions of sanitation. Therefore we live in a  
"filthy paradise." If we continue to rely for our  
knowledge upon a system which is so un-  
reliable.This state of things has not been the fault of  
the Registrar General or Mr. McCollum, Secre-  
tary to the Sanitary Board, for they have, over  
and over again, urged the necessity for reform  
in this direction.The Hon. Stewart Lockhart, Dr. Macdonald, and  
Mr. McCollum devoted time and trouble to the  
up a form of registration suitable to the colony.conditions of the colony. Of the amount of work  
done, even with the available sources of know-  
ledge, I can speak personally. But to expect  
anything like a reliable record of our disease  
and mortality statistics from the meagre  
sources of information is an impossibility.  
I would, therefore, ask the Sanitary Board to  
deal with this matter with this all-important  
question of the mortality statistics, and the  
enforcement of the regulations regarding cases of  
infectious diseases, not only amongst Europeans,  
but also, and especially, amongst the Chinese.  
Under the present conditions, disease amongst  
the Chinese, which is the source of our danger,  
is practically left out of the record.Your obedient servant,  
JAMES CANTILE.

July 16th, 1894.

After some discussion it was decided to  
Mr. Francis said the above letter coupled with  
Dr. Cantile's last letter constituted "a huge  
joke." The latter was intended to explain the  
condemnation







